

Garden Fields J.M.I School

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Growing Hearts and Minds

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23rd June 2023

Dear Families, Staff and Governors,



Exciting News!

I have been updating you on the progress of our redevelopment of the Nature Area and I, alongside Miss Orviss and Mrs Silva, have been working on a project over the year that has finally come to fruition. The project has only been made possible with the support of the PTA and of course, all of you with your generosity at PTA events. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated team who give up their time to raise money to enhance what Garden Fields is able to offer to our children.

I will now hand over to Gemma Scanlan and Gill Gumby, our PTA Co-Chairs, to tell you more...



We have managed to fund many projects over the past few years; from class allocations ensuring that the children have some wonderful experiences in school, to new Chromebooks and reading books. We are excited to announce, however, that we have now agreed **funding** for school to build a **yurt** in the nature area!

We are so lucky at school to have a large nature area and the school were keen to develop the area into one that could be used throughout the year, and by all children. They have been working with companies to recreate this area and part of their vision was to include a **weather-proof outdoor classroom** which will allow the children to learn about the natural world through STEM activities and spark their creativity by being in a different learning environment.

As well as being a year-round classroom that all classes will be allocated time in, the yurt will also help the mental health of our children; from being a place to withdraw to for the many neuro-diverse children who need a quiet space, to children needing therapy.



The yurt will also be an opportunity to engage the **Eco Reps** in science and technology projects to develop the yurt's environmental impact with projects such as wind turbines.

Used as a hub for use by additional clubs for both the school children and the wider community, the yurt will allow for an **income** to continue to pay for new resources, as well as management and maintenance of the site.

If you have any questions, or would like to see a smaller example of what will be built, please do come along to the **Summer Fair on Saturday 8th July** where the company that is being used is going to erect a temporary yurt for us!

Without the funding provided by the PTA, this yurt could not have been built and so we want to say a huge **thank you** to anyone who has helped us raise money through volunteering, attending our events, donating uniform or raising money through easy fundraising our the school lottery - every little bit has helped.

Many thanks,
Your PTA



Strike Action

As many of you may have seen in the news, the NEU have announced that their members will be on strike on:

Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July 2023

As you may be aware, teachers do not have to inform me of their intention to strike until the morning of the strike. I will be asking our teachers and as you saw with the strike action at the start of term, the teachers did let you know of their intentions in time for you to make other child care arrangements. I am hopeful that this will be the case again in July. I will, of course, keep you all informed as and when I have a clear understanding of the situation at Garden Fields. It would be prudent however to investigate 'Plan B' options for the dates above.

Sports Day

CHANGE TO THE DATES ON THE WEBSITE!



Many of you have been asking for more information about Sports Day. Full details of the programme will come out over the next few weeks.

The running order is:

Monday 3rd July 2023 (AM) – **EYFS** – 9.15am start time

Tuesday 4th July 2023 - **Year 1 and Year 2** – 9.00am start time

Tuesday 4th July 2023 – **Year 3 and Year 4** – 1.15pm start time

Thursday 6th July 2023 (AM) - **Year 5 and Year 6** – 9.00am start time

The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that we have had to make one change to the line-up. Given that Year 5 and Year 6's Sports Day is due to be on the first strike day (Wednesday 5th July), I have taken the decision, alongside our Sports team, to move the Year 5 and 6 Sports Day.

Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Day will now be on the morning of Thursday 6th July

As this will be the culmination of our Year 6's Sports Day journey, I wanted them to be able to concentrate on taking part and competing for their house, rather than worrying that their last Sports Day might not happen!



Sports Day Weather Warning: The only thing I cannot plan ahead for is the Great British weather! We will make every effort to enable the Sports Days to go ahead. If, however, rain stops us going ahead, we will have to cancel the Sports Day and try to rearrange it. I know that this will be frustrating - especially if you have arranged time off work - but I hope that you will understand that weather is beyond our control!

Bikes and Scooters on site / School Children and Bike Sheds

As I mentioned in my update two weeks ago...

****We have plenty of spaces to lock a bicycle or scooter inside the school gates.**

Please dismount at the gate and walk your bike or scooter whilst on site. There should be no children riding on scooters or bikes on the school site. Please remember that any bikes or scooters brought to school are stored outside at the bike rack or scooter park.**

I am quite disappointed to see that some children are still not adhering to these rules. **Please reinforce the importance of these rules to your children** – it is very important in order to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your co-operation!

Similarly, we have noticed that **some children are congregating around the bike sheds** first thing in the morning. **Again, please reiterate to your children that they need to park their bikes sensibly and not remain around the bike sheds once they have done this.** Thank you.



Safer Together

As part of our **safeguarding** commitment, we want to alert our community to ways we can all keep ourselves and each other safe. We talk about these things in school, but by working in partnership with our community we hope to make sure that we are all talking the same language of **safety**.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Online Safety Tips For Children

Do's ✓

- 1 KEEP YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION PRIVATE ONLINE**
Only share it with people you know like friends and family. Ask a trusted adult, like your teacher or a family member, to help you change your privacy settings so that strangers can't see it.
- 2 SPEAK POLITELY AND BE KIND TO OTHERS WHEN YOU SPEAK TO THEM ONLINE**
Treat them like you would treat them in real life and always remember your manners.
- 3 TELL A TRUSTED ADULT IF YOU ARE BEING BULLIED ONLINE**
If other another person is sending you nasty messages, a trusted adult will be able to help you collect evidence and report the person to the relevant authorities.
- 4 USE PASSWORDS TO PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION**
Ask a trusted adult to help you create a password that you can easily remember but which is hard for other people to guess.
- 5 ALWAYS CHECK WITH A TRUSTED ADULT FIRST BEFORE USING A DEVICE OR DOWNLOADING A NEW APP**
This is so that they can check it is safe for you to use and make sure the privacy settings are right.
- 6 TELL A TRUSTED ADULT IF YOU SEE SOMETHING ONLINE WHICH YOU DON'T LIKE**
This can include anything that upsets you, makes you feel sad or which you're unsure about.
- 7 USE THE INTERNET TO HAVE FUN AND TO HELP YOU FIND OUT INFORMATION ABOUT THINGS**
Remember to ask your trusted adult for help and always use child friendly search engines so that the information you get back is safe.

Don'ts ✗

- 1 ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS OR PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW**
Always tell a trusted adult if somebody you don't know tries to contact you online.
- 2 SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON YOUR DEVICE**
Instead, go out and play with your friends, get some fresh air and try to exercise more. This will help you stay fit and healthy.
- 3 REPLY TO MESSAGES FROM ONLINE BULLIES OR PEOPLE WHO SEND YOU NASTY MESSAGES**
The most important thing to do is to tell a trusted adult and then block the person from contacting you.
- 4 COPY PEOPLE'S WORK ONLINE OR PRETEND IT IS YOURS**
This is called plagiarism and can get you into a lot of trouble.
- 5 BE MEAN OR NASTY ONLINE**
Behave online like you would in real life and don't post anything that can make you look like a bad person. Things that you post online can stay there for a very long time.
- 6 USE YOUR DEVICES CLOSE TO BEDTIME**
This will allow your brain to rest so that you can get a good night's sleep, stay focused at school and perform better in class.
- 7 SHARE PERSONAL INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET WITH STRANGERS**
Always tell a trusted adult if somebody you don't know asks you for your personal information.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend,

Ms Palmer